

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 2, 2003, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims and the specification, along with the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. The Title and the Drawings are amended. No new matter is presented. Claims 1-16 are currently pending. In view of above the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicant requests the favorable consideration of claims 1-16.

The Drawings are objected since Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8 are not designated as Prior Art. Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8 have been amended to be properly designated as "Prior Art". Accordingly, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the objection to Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8.

The Title of the Invention is objected to for not being descriptive. The Title has been amended, as suggested in the Office Action, to clearly and distinctly describe the invention. Therefore, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the objection to the Title.

Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Brownlow et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,556,162 B2, hereinafter "*Brownlow*"). However, Applicant respectfully submits that *Brownlow* is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). *Brownlow* has a filing date of May 2, 2001 and an issue date of April 29, 2003. The present invention was filed on August 16, 2001 and a priority date of August 23, 2000. Therefore, *Brownlow* is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). A verified translation of the Japanese Patent Application has already been submitted, therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

Claims 9, 11, 13, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated

by Yamaguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2003/0001818 A1, hereinafter "*Yamaguchi*"). Applicant respectfully submits that *Yamaguchi* is also not prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). *Yamaguchi* has a filing date of July 1, 2002 and a publication date of January 2, 2003. The present application was filed on August 16, 2001 and has a priority date of August 23, 2000. Therefore *Yamaguchi* is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). As a result, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9, 11, 13, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

Claims 2-4 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brownlow and Gormish (U.S. Patent No. 5,910,796, hereinafter "*Gormish*") and Peter Shirley (Fundamentals of Computer Graphics published by AK Peters, hereinafter "*Shirley*").

As discussed above, the primary reference of *Brownlow* is not proper prior art. Since a verified translation has already been submitted, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-4 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 10, 12, 14, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yamaguchi* and further in view of *Gormish* and *Shirley*.

As mentioned above, the primary reference of *Yamaguchi* is not proper prior art, since the present application has a priority date before the effective date of the reference. Therefore, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10, 12, 14, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

In view of the above amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1-16 is respectfully requested. Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8 have been amended. The Title has also been amended. No new matter is presented. Accordingly, Applicant

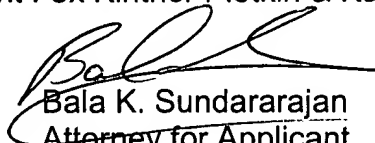
submits that the application is now in condition for allowance with claims 1-16 contained therein.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to Counsel's Deposit Account 01-2300, referring to docket number 107314-08005.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Replacement Sheets for Figures 1-4, 7 and 8